

Frequently Asked Questions

Expanding the Maine Learning Technology Initiative to the High School Level July, 2004

1. WHAT IS INCLUDED FOR \$300.00 PER SEAT PER YEAR FOR 4-YEARS IN THE CURRENT RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APPLE?

Laptop Equipment and Maintenance

- Students units: Apple 12" iBook G4 with 256M RAM, Airport Extreme card
- Teachers, administrators, and technical coordinators: Apple 12" iBook G4 with 256 MB RAM, Airport Extreme card, and Combo drive (read DVDs/CDs and write CDs)
- Brenthaven carry-case.
- Custom imaging and asset tagging as with the current program
- Four-year AppleCare coverage for iBooks

Software

- Apple Remote Desktop (one administrative copy per school)
- Notetaker
- Virex anti-virus
- Keynote
- Mac OS X
- MacJournal
- SubEthaEdit
- Worldbook
- Grass GIS
- PASCO DataStudio
- Office-type productivity suite
- E-mail client
- Fax capability
- iLife (iMovie, iTunes, iPhoto, GarageBand, iDVD)
- Sherlock
- .pdf reader

Training

Introductory sessions will be jointly developed by Apple and the DOE. There will be a professional development session for educators and administrators, and a session for technical coordinators. These sessions will run concurrently with integration to be determined jointly by Apple and the DOE. These sessions will be coordinated with the hardware and network deployment plan.

Networks

Apple will work with the state to install wireless networks in Maine public high schools that opt into the program. These networks will include Apple Airport Extreme access points, and switches to cover agreed upon instructional areas. Apple will also provide

Power Over Ethernet for the Airport Extremes in those cases where it is considered impractical for the school to provide power. Apple will work with the Maine Department of Education to optimize network installations understanding that many Airport Extremes will require electrical power to be provided by the schools as provided in the original MLTI agreement.

Servers for collaboration

Apple Xserves will host a Moodle course management and collaboration application.

Backup of Student and Teacher Data

Apple will provide a network-based server solution to be used for backup. 250MB of storage will be provided per student and teacher.

2. WHAT ARE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROGRAM SHOULD A HIGH SCHOOL OPT IN?

It is a commitment to the Maine Department of Education of \$300.00 per seat per year for 4 years.

3. HOW MANY SEATS MUST HIGH SCHOOLS IN MAINE COME TOGETHER AND AGREE TO RENT IN ORDER FOR APPLE TO EXTEND THE \$300.00 PER SEAT PER YEAR PRICE?

A minimum of 8,400 seats must be contracted.

4. IS THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEATS PER SCHOOL?

Maine's own research has proven that 1:1 access to computer technology can have a dramatic effect on student achievement. The foundation of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative is 1:1 computing where each student has their own device, with their own files easily accessible anytime anywhere. Schools are highly encouraged to deploy full grades, but can do less in this transition year.

5. MUST A DISTRICT DO A WHOLE GRADE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

Schools may choose to deploy full grades and/or a portion of their teachers.

6. CAN DISTRICT PURCHASE LAPTOPS FOR TEACHERS ONLY?

Yes but there will be no wireless network installed in the high school until at least one full grade is deployed.

7. WHEN IS THE DEADLINE FOR OPTING INTO THIS PROGRAM?

July 30, 2004.

8. WILL DISTRICTS BE PENALIZED IF WE GO WITH ANOTHER PROGRAM?

No. Schools that choose to move forward on their own will receive the same level of funding from the State DOE not to exceed \$300.00 per seat. Through the EPS formula – beginning in FY '06. The Department of Education has negotiated a comprehensive and aggressively priced solution for Maine High Schools with Apple. Districts that choose to implement a different solution will be required to adhere to the same solution and service levels as the State 1:1 Program beginning in FY '06.

9. WHEN CAN WE ANTICIPATE DELIVERY OF THE LAPTOPS?

The current plan is to ship the iBooks to schools in mid to late September 2004.

10. WHEN WILL THE WIRELESS NETWORKS BE INSTALLED?

Upon completion of the approved School Readiness Checklist Apple will schedule your wireless network installation.

11. WHEN WILL TEACHER TRAINING TAKE PLACE?

Training sessions will be set up in various locations throughout the state beginning in the Fall 2004.

12. HOW DOES A DISTRICT APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE REVOLVING RENOVATION FUND FOR WIRELESS NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE?

Complete the application as drafted on the Department website <http://www.state.me.us/education/const/documents/RRFAppRevised7-13-04WORD.doc> for the MLTI project and submit. Districts do not need to hold a local referendum as this is being treated as a reimbursement. Please contact Department staff members Scott Brown scott.brown@maine.gov or Jim Rier jim.rier@maine.gov for further information.

13. HOW MUCH REIMBURSEMENT DOES MY DISTRICT QUALIFY FOR FROM THE REVOLVING RENOVATION FUND?

Reimbursement ranges from 20% to 50% depending on your district. This reimbursement applies to that portion of the total cost that is allocated for infrastructure installation. Infrastructure installation will vary with each school. Apple will provide each district a bill for submission to the Revolving Renovation Fund for reimbursement. This amount is within the \$300.00 per seat.

14. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LEGISLATURE APPROVES A LEASE PURCHASE IN THE FUTURE?

Should the legislature approve a lease purchase in the future, there is the potential to augment the current rental solution with additional components.

15. IF A HIGH SCHOOL DECIDES TO OPT INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH APPLE ARE UNITS PURCHASED APPLIED TOWARD THE 8,400 SEAT THRESHOLD THE STATE IS WORKING TOWARD OBTAINING?

Yes.

16. WILL THESE DISTRICTS BE PROTECTED IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD THE STATE ACQUIRE FUNDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE MLTI INITIATIVE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL? FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE STATE WERE TO PAY 55% OF THE \$300.00 PER SEAT, WILL THESE SAME MONIES BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE DISTRICTS THAT HAVE ENTERED INTO A LEASE PURCHASE WITH APPLE?
Yes.
17. HOW WILL THE \$300.00 PER SEAT, PER YEAR BE COLLECTED FROM THE DISTRICTS?
It will be debited against the funds allocated from the state subsidy.
18. WHEN IS THE \$300.00 PER SEAT PAYMENT DUE OR BEING WITHHELD?
It will be debited against the SAU's remaining monthly subsidy checks.
19. WHAT PERCENT OF LOCAL ENTITLEMENT MONEY CAN BE USED TOWARD THE \$300.00 PER SEAT?
No Limit.
20. WILL THERE BE A STIPEND FOR 'TEACHER LEADERS' AT THE HIGH SCHOOL?
Not at this time.
21. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE LEGAL LANGUAGE AROUND WAIVING THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES? THE COMMISSIONER TOLD SUPERINTENDENTS AT THE COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE IN BAR HARBOR THAT THIS LANGUAGE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THEM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. WHEN WILL THIS LANGUAGE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS?
End of July.
22. WHAT IF YOU ARE A SAD OR A PRIVATE THAT SERVICES MULTIPLE TOWNS? DO YOU NEED TO GET THIS WAIVER FROM EACH TOWN OR ONLY THE TOWN THE SCHOOL RESIDES IN?
Only from the community where the high school is located.
23. ARE PRIVATE SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE \$300.00 PER SEAT PER YEAR PRICE?
Yes.
24. ARE PRIVATES ABLE TO ACCESS REVOLVING RENOVATION MONEY?
No.
25. HOW WILL THE \$300.00 PER SEAT BE OBTAINED FROM THE PRIVATES? WILL IT BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR 'FULL STATE LEGAL TUITION'?

(PRIVATES WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT AS AN ADDITION RATHER THAN A DEDUCTION.)

This would need to be negotiated between the sending SAU and the private academy. We would be willing to deduct the payment from the SAU's subsidy.

26. ARE THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES?
Outside.
27. TO WHAT END DO WE GIVE ALL 'FRESHAMN' COMPUTERS IF IT IS GOING TO END THERE?
The Commissioner's plan is for full implementation 9-12.
28. ARE NETWORKS BEING DESIGNED BUILDING WIDE TO HANDLE THE CAPACITY OF ONLY THE 9TH GRADE OR GRADES 9-12?
The intent is to provide full access.